

LAKESHORE MANAGEMENT

Goals

Public Use. Protect and enhance a variety of lakeshore public use opportunities, and protect visual quality of lakeshores.

Habitat. Protect fish and wildlife habitat along lakeshores.

Private Ownership of Land. Provide opportunities for private ownership of lakeshore property.

Water Quality. Maintain water quality.

Management Guidelines

A. Land to be Retained. Where land near a lake is conveyed to private ownership, at least 50 percent of all public land within 500 feet of the shore of lakes should be retained in public ownership. Retained lands should include at least 50 percent of the actual shoreline (ordinary high water) as a lakeshore buffer (see Guideline B below). These percentages may be increased or decreased case by case or as part of a regional strategy to provide a full spectrum of public and private opportunities for recreation, habitat, and subsistence if topography, amount of use, or other local conditions warrant. A significant portion of the lakefront land retained in public ownership should be suitable for recreational and subsistence activities. Where feasible, the publicly retained land should include the land adjacent to lake inlets and outlets. On all lakes where airplanes can land, public access sites should be retained if land is sold. (See also *Settlement Guideline C-4*, page 2-31.)

B. Management of Lakeshore Buffers. Lakeshore buffers are areas which have been kept in public ownership. Buffers generally will be managed to protect public access, minimize negative effects from adjacent land uses, and maintain the natural vegetation within the buffer. Uses may be allowed in publicly owned

lakeshore buffers if the uses are consistent with the purposes for which the buffer was established and do not block public access or adversely affect water quality. For example, if the purpose of the buffer is public recreation, habitat, or subsistence, uses such as private docks for adjacent upland owners may need to be consolidated to minimize the impact on public recreation, habitat, or subsistence values. If on the other hand, individual docks for upland owners would not adversely affect water quality, habitat, or subsistence values, then individual docks will be allowed. In the design and review of each disposal adjacent to a publicly owned lakeshore buffer, the Division of Land and Water Management will determine what activities within the buffers will not require specific authorization from DNR for upland owners.

C. Establishing Widths of Easements and Setbacks. Where lakefront property is conveyed from state ownership or made available for remote cabin permits, a minimum public access easement of 50 feet will be reserved along the shoreline, and a minimum residential building setback of 100 feet will be required unless land adjacent to the lake is stable and development or use of it does not pose a risk to water quality or other values such as wildlife, subsistence, or recreation. In some cases setbacks may need to be reduced to allow for an adequate buffer or setback on a nearby, more valuable stream or wetland. In some management units different minimum staking setbacks have already been established.

Water-dependent structures, such as docks or boathouses, are allowed within easements and setbacks if public access is not blocked or alternative public access is provided.

D. Structures in Fish Habitat. See *Fish and Wildlife Habitat Guideline C*, page 2-7.

E. Water Intake Structures. See *Fish and Wildlife Habitat Guideline D*, page 2-7.

F. Other Guidelines Affecting Lakeshore Management. Several other guidelines may affect lakeshore management. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Coordination and public notice
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Forestry
- Grazing
- Heritage resources
- Materials
- Public access
- Public and commercial recreation
- Settlement
- Subsistence activities and traditional uses
- Subsurface resources
- Trail management
- Transportation and utilities
- Wetlands management